

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 10, 18 and 22 are independent.

By this reply, claims have been amended to clarify the invention according to U.S. practice and such amendments do not add new matter.

35 U.S.c. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nezu (U.S. Patent No. 5,970,228). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner maintains the rejection of the claims under Nezu because the Examiner alleges that column 29, lines 22-54 of Nezu discloses the feature of “enabling an operator to use the workstation operating means for selecting one of the listed interactive print jobs and for giving a command for printing the selected job”. Without acquiescing to the Examiner’s allegations, to further emphasize and clarify the distinctions, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite “enabling an operator *at the workstation side* to use the workstation operating means *for selecting one of the listed interactive print jobs currently stored in the local storage device of the printer and for giving a direct command to the printer for printing the selected job at the printer*”. Other independent claims 10, 18 and 22 have been amended in a similar manner.

Nezu at column 29, lines 22-54, which is the portion cited by the Examiner, is directed to selecting by an operator a print job that is stored in the “external storage medium” and not stored in the printer connected to the workstation through the digital network. Particularly, Nezu discloses that at step H130 of Figure 16, a “control block pointer list D60a is read out from the external storage medium” at lines 31-32, column 29 of Nezu. The control block pointer list D60a and other data such as D61, D62 and D63 are all stored on the external storage medium as shown

in Figures 9(a)-9(d). In Nezu, there is no contact or communication between the workstation and the printer (printer server) and thus, the operator cannot select a print job stored in the [local storage device] of the printer, and cannot give at the workstation side a direct command to the printer for printing the selected job at the printer, as recited in the claims. In Applicants' embodied invention, control for selecting a print job and giving a command for printing the selected job is completely done from the workstation, and there is no operator interface at the printer side. This provides convenience to the user and an effective printing system.

Therefore, Nezu does not and cannot anticipate at least the above-noted features recited in independent claims 1, 10, 18 and 22. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 10, 18 and 22 and their dependent claims (due to their dependency) are patentable over Nezu, and the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final Action, in that it raises no new issues but merely places the claims in a form more clearly patentable over the references of record. In the alternative, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final Action in that it reduces the issues for appeal.

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Should there be any matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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